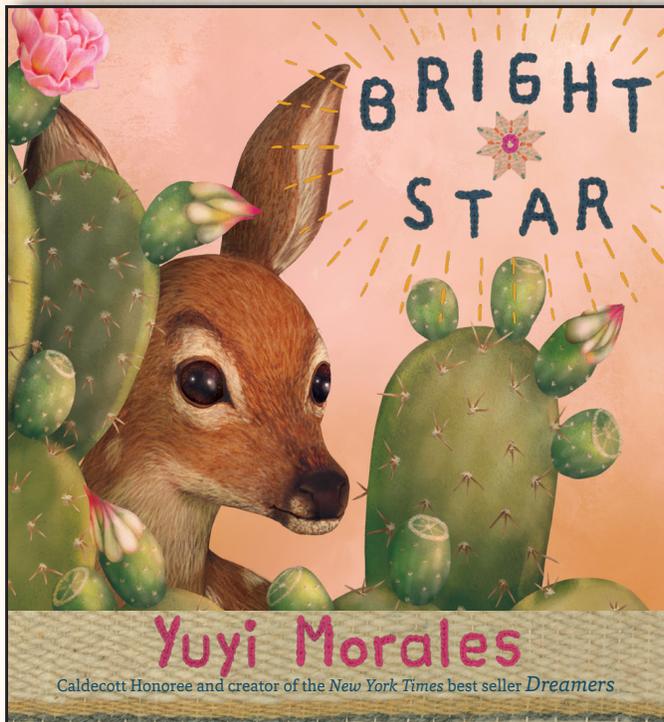


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Grades
PreK-3



BRIGHT STAR by Yuyi Morales

NEAL PORTER BOOKS

HC: 9780823443284 · e-book: 9780823448937

Available in Spanish as *Lucero*: HC: 9780823447848 · e-book: 9780823449040

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the creator of the Pura Belpré Award-winning *Dreamers* comes a heartbreakingly beautiful story about growth, empowerment, and finding one's own voice.

Told with a combination of powerful, spare language and sumptuous and complex imagery that is typical of Yuyi Morales's work, this is the story of a fawn making her way through a border landscape teeming with flora and fauna native to the region. A gentle but empowering voice encourages her to face her fears when she comes across an obstacle in the form of an insurmountable barrier.

Yuyi Morales's first book since her *New York Times* bestseller *Dreamers* is one for very young children looking for their place in a world full of uncertainty. It is a book with resonance for all children, especially those whose safety is threatened due to the immigration crisis in the US.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Engage readers in a discussion about the term "bright star." What does it mean if you are a "bright star" in someone's heart? Ask readers to name someone who's a "bright star" to them. Then have them write two sentences that describes that person.



HolidayHouse.com



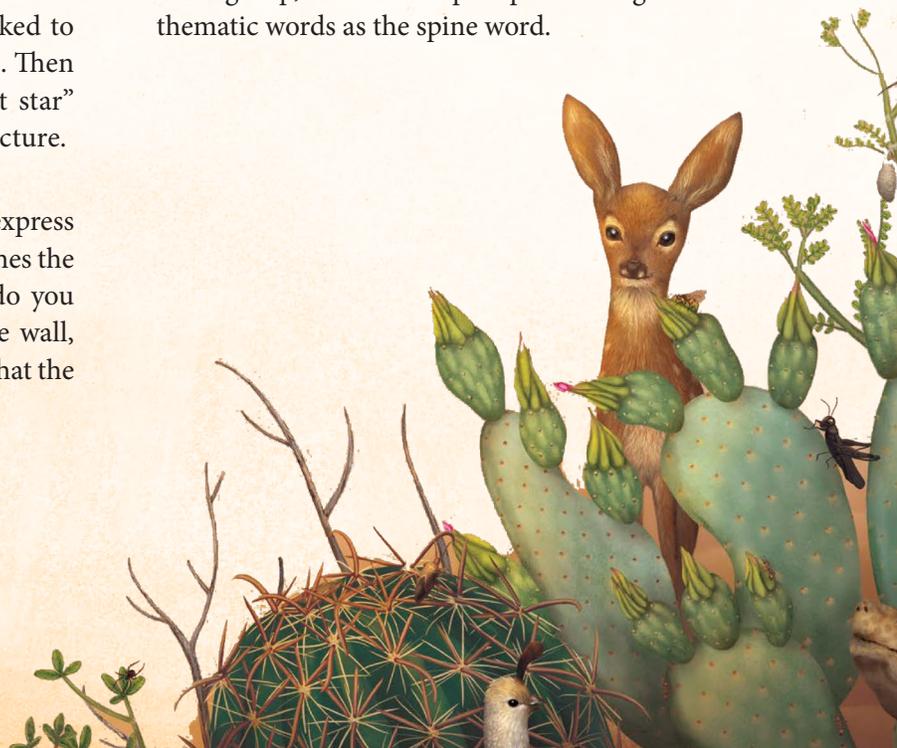
#BrightStar

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What type of art does Yuyi Morales use to create the end pages of the book? Take a look at the title page. What on this page is the same art form? How does this art form represent Yuyi's Mexican heritage?
- Setting is where a book takes place. Take hints from the art on the title page and discuss the setting of the book.
- Study the next two double-page spreads. Who is telling the story? Discuss whether the fawn is a newborn. How do you know? Describe how the mother deer takes care of her baby. Point out how Morales illustrates the part of the text that reads "you are awake" and "you are alive."
- Explain what the mother deer means, "Some things you can see. Others you must find."
- What do you think the mother and her fawn are searching for? Note the direction they are walking. Identify other creatures that are traveling in the same direction. Where are they taking the reader?
- What is the sign of warning on the next page? Take a close look at the animals. How do you know they are alert? What else does the deer teach her fawn about staying safe?
- Identify the place in the story where the fawn is alone in the desert world. How does this illustration and the one on the next page reveal fear and hurt?
- Study the illustration with the concrete wall and the barbed wire fence. Discuss all the broken things in the illustration. Why do you think the colors get darker at the wall? Where do you think the wall and the fence are located? What is the purpose of the wall? How does that hurt the animals and the people that Yuyi is writing about?
- What new story is the fawn imagining? What about the little girl on the next page? Explain what the bright flowers represent. Where do the children in the story live? Draw a connection between the pictures on their clothing to the overall story. How are they searching for the same thing as the fawn?

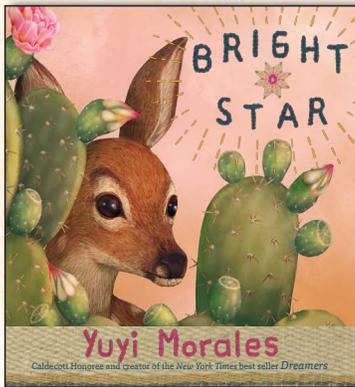
ACTIVITIES

- The hummingbird stands for joy, freedom, and good luck. It appears on the title page and in illustrations throughout the story. Return to the Pre-Reading Activity where readers were asked to name a person who is a "bright star" to them. Then ask them to draw a picture of their "bright star" and place a symbolic hummingbird in the picture.
- The deer tells her fawn that it's important to express feelings. What is the fawn feeling when it reaches the wall? Study the children at the wall. What do you think they are feeling? Draw a picture of the wall, and write words on the wall that best reflect what the children might be thinking.
- Explain how the story is about hope, love, and survival. Allow readers to work with a partner or small group, and write a spine poem using one of the thematic words as the spine word.

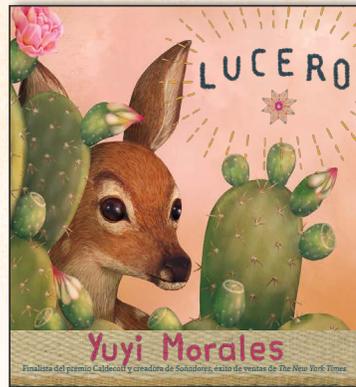




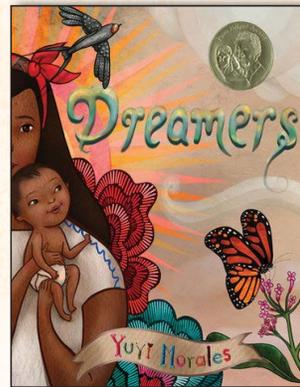
CONNECTING *BRIGHT STAR* and *DREAMERS*



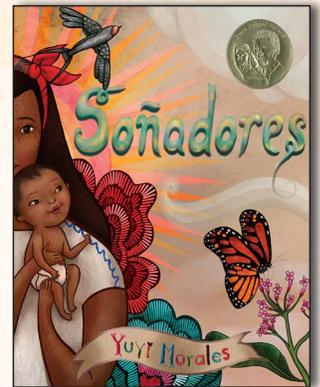
HC: 9780823443284
e-book: 9780823448937



HC: 9780823447848
e-book: 9780823449040



HC: 9780823440559
e-book: 9780823441259



HC: 9780823442584
PB: 9780823446735
e-book: 9780823442591

- Discuss why immigrant children brought to the United States by their parents are called “Dreamers.” How are “Dreamers” different from the children pictured at the end of *Bright Star*? The children in *Bright Star* may not be “Dreamers,” but they have dreams. What do you think their dreams are?
- Morales uses English and Spanish in telling both stories. How does this help convey her overall message? Discuss how the two languages give a rhythm to the text, like a poem.
- How do books make a difference to the mother and son in *Dreamers*? Discuss how books like *Bright Star* and *Dreamers* might make a difference to those who don’t understand the plight of the immigrant.
- Ask readers to think about the lyrics to Disney’s “It’s a Small World.”
Lyrics: genius.com/Walt-disney-records-its-a-small-world-lyrics
Song: youtube.com/watch?v=PxRW-duSCLA
Why is the song sung in many languages? How is it about world peace?
- Discuss the hopes and fears of the children in *Bright Star* and the mother and son in *Dreamers*. How does Morales make the reader aware of the world on both sides of the wall?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATOR



Yuyi Morales was born in Xalapa, Mexico, where she currently resides. She is a six-time Pura Belpré Award winner and Caldecott Honor recipient. Her book *Dreamers* received the Pura Belpré Award and was a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book and a *New York Times* best seller. Her most recent book is *Bright Star*.



HolidayHouse.com



#BrightStar